The Current



Monthly News from Port Edwards United Methodist Church

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Looking Ahead
Calendar
Noteworthy

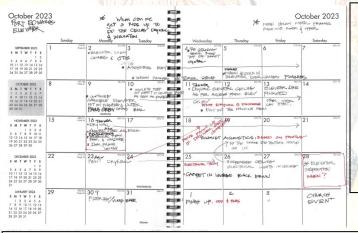
PEUMCFall 2023 Congregational Photo

"The Church is not a place where
PERFECT people gather
to say PERFECT things,
or have PERFECT thoughts,
or have PERFECT feelings.
The church is a place where
IMPERFECT people gather
to provide

ENCOURAGEMENT, SUPPORT AND SERVICE TO EACH OTHER

Joseph B. Wirthlin, The Virtue of Kindness, April 2005





LEFT: Our subcontractor showed us his rigorous
October schedule for our Elevator Project.
If all goes according to plan, he explained, the
project *will* be done by Nov. 4th's Holiday
Bazaar. But . . . there are *many* factors
outside our/his control.

Let us pray for smooth sailing
through the end of the project!

RIGHT: Our new church CharBroil grill! Leo picked this up early September and has already given us TWO wonderful cookouts! We enjoyed a rainy, indoor-cookout on Sept. 10th and a beautiful, sunny, outdoor-cookout on October 1st! Leo did the grilling of hamburgers, hotdogs, and brats!



It's Coming . . .

Consecration Sunday!

Sunday, November 12th

Guest Speaker: The Rev. Barry Yarbro
A reservation-only catered luncheon will follow the service!
Be expecting your invite in the mail soon!

What is God calling you to give for the Body of Christ?

In the Church Year

All Saints Sunday

Sunday, October 29th

Each year, we remember those who have died within the past 12 months. We read off a list of the dead (a "necrology") and ring a bell for them. This list does not include *just* our formal church members. If someone was near and dear to you, we want to remember them, too! A clipboard will be made available to add their name onto the list. You will be invited forward to light a candle in memory of all who still rest on your heart.

THE REIGN OF CHRIST SUNDAY

Sunday, November 5th

A musical journey through the Church Year will open our worship service. The Reign of Christ is a celebratory service that ushers us out of the long, **green** season After Pentecost and into the **purple** season of Advent.

Looking Thead



The Baptism of Glenna Sunderland Sunday, October 8

A luncheon will follow the service. The dessert and main course (Italian beef) is being provided by Kara Delaney, Glenna's caretaker. You are invited to bring a side or salad. The whole congregation is invited to stay after church and congratulate Glenna on the new chapter in her faith journey!



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8TH

We welcome **Helmuth Wrege** and **Sandy Klein** into PEUMC membership! Helmuth and Sandy come to us from Bethlehem Lutheran in Nekoosa. After a few weeks visiting, they found our church family to be genuinely friendly and warm and easily saw themselves becoming part of our inclusive and praise-filled

October 15

Music Sunday!





Sunday Service - October 22



October 29th

Remembering our Dearly Departed

- (1) lighting candles in memory of lost loved one
- (2) reading off the names, with chime, of those who had died in the past year.

Sundays in October

Sunday, October 1st World Communion	Exodus 1:8-2:10; 3:1-15	Moses & the Burning Bush "Love the Lord Your God"	
Sunday, October 8 th Baptism & Membership	Deuteronomy 6:4-9		
Sunday, October 15 th Music Sunday	Ruth 1:1-17 & 4:13-17	The Story of Ruth	
Sunday, October 22 nd UWIF Sunday	1 Samuel 1:9-20; 16:1- 13	Samuel is Born; David is chosen as first king	
Sunday, October 29th All Saints' Sunday	1 Kings 6:37-7:1, 7:51- 8:1-13	Solomon Builds the First Temple	
Sun., November 5 th Reign of Christ	1 Kings 18:17-39	Elijah calls down fire from heaven	

RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE - OCT. 1ST, 8TH, 15TH

A clear theme throughout Scripture is that God loves us. When we experience God's love, we are called to respond with love. We see that in the story of Moses & the Burning Bush (10/1), the commandment to love God (10/8) and the example given to us by Ruth's love and loyalty toward Noami (10/15).

God's Way of Leading - Oct. 22nd, 29th, Nov. 5th

The history of God's Chosen People is filled with good and bad leaders. God chose **David** to shepherd all of Israel; David ended up being an example of a flawed, but faithful servant leader (1 Samuel 1 & 16, 10/22). However, his son, **Solomon**, would end up less faithful; he rejected advice to become a servant leader, which would lead to a split in the kingdom (1 Kings 6-8, 10/29). After the kingdom was divided, **Elijah's** leadership would prove that God is the one true Lord by sending fire from heaven (1 Kings 18, 11/5).



A Fabulous Night for a Movie!

Over fifty people, of all ages, (and 3 dogs) showed up to our outdoor showing of Disney's "Encanto!" The day started out stormy but ended in a beautiful evening! Everyone got all the popcorn they wanted!



Bible Voices

Volunteers needed!

One thing is for certain: more scripture is being read today on Sunday mornings than ever before in the past 100 years. This is true in most mainline churches. Many people remember pastors quoting just a verse or two, out of context, right before the sermon (even John Wesley himself would focus entire sermons on just a single phrase).

The Narrative Lectionary, particularly, encourages churches to read entire stories from the Bible, so that we can appreciate once again the storytelling nature of our Holy Bible.

But . . . it's hard to follow along when the stories are long!

"Bible Voices" is what I'm (Pastor Caleb) calling those additional readers each Sunday who do the "voices" of the various characters.

The Voices are not there for entertainment. We are not asking people to act out the parts. But splitting the story across multiple voices really helps us to follow along in the conversation and is a small part of helping make the stories come alive.

The clipboard is made available each Sunday, just outside the sanctuary doors. The printed parts are available underneath the clipboard. Take it whenever you sign up. If you sign up for Speaker #1, take your part from the folder underneath marked Speaker #1, and so on. [Take the right date.] (There is always a Speaker #1 part, sometimes a Sp. #2, and rarely a Sp. #3.)

Worship Servants!

I want to give honest and wholehearted thanks to our dedicated weekly "WORSHIP SERVANTS" who help lead our worship service: our liturgists, our ushers, our greeters, our musicians, and our media operators! And now our Bible Voices!

Each week, our worshippers in the pews bring their "presence," their "gifts," and their "prayers." However, I'm going to challenge everyone reading this to consider how they can also bring their "service" to the service! No, not everyone is

called to "publicly speak," but IF we are going to call ourselves a church "family," then we should not be nervous about standing up front to read from a script. Let's be real... do we ever point & laugh when someone goofs up? No. We love each other and offer much grace. So there is no reason to not sign up to be a part of our worship service. Moses & the Apostle Paul were not good public speakers—so you don't have to be either! Me? I abhor the feeling of the worship service being "The Caleb McGregor Show." I really want a church that steps up and leads more parts of the



service. I really, really believe the atmosphere of the service changes positively when it truly becomes "the work of the PEOPLE"—<u>ALL</u> the PEOPLE! And this is one significant way we can live out our membership vows, and contribute beyond "presence," "gifts," and "prayers." It is our "SERVICE" and our "WITNESS," too!

I challenge every one of our worshippers to consider stepping out of their comfort zone and signing up for a new role for an upcoming week. If you are confused on your duties, just contact the church office or see the pastor! We would LOVE to see new faces up front!

It really, really adds to the "family" effort that is divine worship!

BREAKING THE CODE: THE BOOK OF REVELATION

a review for our recent Bible study

By Pastor Caleb

A group of six, plus myself, spent four weeks studying the Book of Revelation. This study was chosen after several people circled "Book of Revelation" on their People's Choice Award cards which were collected in July for the August sermon series.

What is "The Book of Revelation?" It is the last book in the Bible—both the last to be written and the last to be included in the biblical canon.

It is a letter—written from someone named John, a pastor, exiled by the Romans on the Island of Patmos in the Aegean Sea. He wrote this letter for seven churches: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea. All these churches were located in modern-day Turkey. There is no evidence that this John is the Apostle John.

The letter was written in a popular literary genre of the day called "apocalypse." Apocalypse means "unveiling" and would use wild and crazy imagery to the point of almost seeming like "coded language." In apocalyptic literature, the main character goes on a fantastical journey, led by a mystical guide. Along the way, there are an assortment of fantastic creatures and beings. But apocalypses always have urgent messages for the readers; so in the end, the main character is brought back to reality with an "aha!" message for us. Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol, even L. Frank Baum's The Wizard of Oz, are both modern examples of apocalyptic stories.

The Book of Revelation was written around 90 AD, about 60 years after the death and Resurrection of Jesus. About 20 years prior, the Roman Empire destroyed Jerusalem and desecrated the Temple of God. Emperors of this era were particularly bloodthirsty to seek out and persecute Christians living within the Empire. Jews, by this time, were tolerated and accepted in Roman culture. In place of offering ceremonial incense to honor of the emperor, and other forms of state religious practices, the Jews paid a tax instead. Christians refused to call the Emperor "lord," which was considered as un-patriotic as you can get and was worthy of the death penalty. In many places, Christians were still joined at the hip to the Jews and the Jews protected them. But in other places, the Jews were turning in to the local authorities Christians who were in hiding. Wherever these Jews were betraying the Christians, the book calls "synagogues of Satan."

Everything in the Book of Revelation revolves around the Roman Empire of the age. It appears that, after the Golden Age of the Caesars (Julius & Augustus), the following emperors of the First Century were severely tyrannical and bloodthirsty; perhaps they were desperately trying to make Rome great again.

Through scholarly analysis, we have come to "break the code" of Revelation, which was not really a code at all to the original readers; they would have understood the symbolisms better than we do today, since they were more averse to reading apocalyptic literature.

- The beast in Revelation? That's Roman Emperor Nero.
- The bloody dragon? That's the Roman Empire itself.
- The second beast, a.k.a, the false prophet(s)? That's the high priests of the Empire, who led the worship of the emperor/empire.
- The city of "Babylon" that is also called the "mother of whores"? That's the city of Rome herself.
- What about 666? Gematria, the Jewish practice of assigning numbers to letters in the alphabet, gives us the answer: Emperor Nero's name adds up to 666. He is also the "star/Satan that fell from the sky." (Nero was the so-called "Antichrist.")
- The 2 witnesses killed and left in the street? They are the Jews & Christians.
- The Lamb? That's Jesus Christ.
- The rider of the white horse? That's also Jesus Christ.

- The references to 1/3? The Roman Empire (In ancient culture: Asia, Africa, Rome)
- The references to 1/4? These are the Christians (Christians, Jews, Roman citizens, other foreign Gentiles).

Is the Book of Revelation about the End of the World? No. This phrase is never used in the book. It may talk about the "end of THIS age" or the "age to come," but that's not the same as the end of time or the end of the world. Apocalypse does not mean a catastrophic end to the world.

Is there a period of tribulation for people? No. Everything that is tortured and destroyed belongs to the Roman Empire. The world itself, nor the people in general, is not hurt or destroyed.

Doesn't God's wrath smite people in the Revelation? No. Again, the destruction falls upon the oppressiveness and injustice of the Roman Empire. God's wrath proves only one point: God will not stand for foul treatment of people forever!

Aren't there lots of battles and bloodshed in the book? Not really. Each sequence of seven (seven bowls of plagues, seven trumpets, seven seals opened, etc.) seem to lead toward a climatic Seventh Act battle, but each time, the violence is postponed. There is a dramatic lead-up to the "Battle of Armageddon." However, the only thing that happens in this "battle" is a millstone tied around the beasts and dragon and they are thrown into the fiery lake. Christ does this. That's about as violent as Revelation actually gets!

Isn't the Book of Revelation about the future? Yes and no. It's *not* a foretelling of the future. It is a dramatic retelling of current events in First Century AD. It does talk about the "future"; but for them, it was the very near future: the impending death of the Roman Empire; the impending liberation of Christians under tyrannical threat. None of it acts like the kind of prophecy we associate with people like Nostradamus. It has nothing to do with the 21st century or America. All that was invented to sell books. Although, its message of good & evil is still relevant today!

Isn't the Rapture in Revelation? No. The Rapture was an invention of John Nelson Darby, a Scottish pastor, from the 1830s. The specific events, as dramatized in novels like The Late Green Planet Earth and the Left Behind series are fabrications based on unscholarly interpretations of random Bible verses strung together. The image of people floating upward and/or disappearing with their clothes left behind are pure fiction, and a misinterpretation of one particular passage in 1 Thessalonians.

So what was the purpose of the Book of Revelation? To give hope to the seven persecuted churches who were under oppressive Roman rule. The last two chapters of the book give us a beautiful image of the New Jerusalem: literally, heaven on earth. Nobody is "taken up." In fact, God's very self is "Raptured" down. John saw "a new heaven and a new earth." But the word "new" does not necessarily mean "a second set." Instead, John saw a "renewed heaven and earth." This is the consummation, or completion, of God's perfect plan for us on this planet. Then John

saw "the holy city, the New Jerusalem, descending down out of heaven." This image is really the joining together of heaven and earth. The book is not anti-earth. But the book IS anti-Rapture. The story is saying: one day, heaven and earth will be joined. Just as God sent the Son to live with us, and the Holy Spirit to dwell within us, so one day, God's very presence will live on earth with us; not on a second planet, or a place somewhere in the sky beyond the clouds. Right here on earth God lives with us forever. The evil city of Rome has been replaced with beautiful city of God. Until then, we live in the in-between times (now-but-not-yet). Satan is "cast down" and "locked up" but is not destroyed completely. That explains why we are still battling forces of good and evil around us and within us. This is the symbolism of "Satan locked up in prison for 1000 years." When Satan is let out again, he will be destroyed completely by God. Only good will endure in the end. Only God wins. Period.

So . . . for all of you enduring persecution now . . . hold fast . . . for evil and oppression, in whatever form they present themselves, will come to an end, once and for all. We will come out as the victors

Daily Scripture Reading - October

The Narrative Lectionary created a daily schedule of readings to supplement the readings we do each Sunday morning. To show how the daily readings align with each Sunday's readings, they have been justified together either to the left or to the right.

Sunday	October 1st	Exodus 2:1-10; 3:1-5	Moses' Birth / God in the Burning Bush	
Monday	October 2 nd	Exodus 5:1-9	"Let My People Go"	
Tuesday	October 3 rd	Exodus 7:1-13	Signs & Wonders in Egypt	
Wednesday	October 4th	Exodus 12:29-32	Pharaoh Finally Relents	
Thursday	October 5 th	Exodus 14:5-14	Pharaoh's Pursuit	
Friday	October 6 th	Exodus 14:19-31	Salvation at the Sea	
Saturday	October 7 th	Deuteronomy 5:1-21	The Ten Commandments	
Sunday	October 8th	Deuteronomy 6:4-9	"Love the Lord Your God" (The Shema)	
Monday	October 9 th	Deuteronomy 6:10-25	Caution Against Disobedience	
Tuesday	October 10 th	Deuteronomy 15:7-11	Help Those in Need	
Wednesday	October 11 th	Deuteronomy 16:18-20	Pursue Justice	
Thursday	October 12 th	Deuteronomy 17:14-20	What Makes a Good Ki	
Friday	October 13 th	Deuteronomy 24:17-22	Care for the Vulneral	
Saturday	October 14 th	Deuteronomy 26:1-11	The First Fruits	
Sunday	October 15 th	Ruth (1:1-17; 4:13-17)	Ruth Follows Naomi / Ruth & Boaz	
Monday	October 16 th	1 Samuel 17:12-54	David & Goliath	
Tuesday	October 17 th	1 Samuel 18:1-15	David & Jonatha	
Wednesday	October 18 th	1 Samuel 18:6-16	David's Success, Saul's Jealousy	
Thursday	October 19 th	1 Samuel 24:1-7	David Spares Saul	
Friday	October 20 th	1 Samuel 24:8-15	David Speaks to Sa	
Saturday	October 21st	1 Samuel 24:16-22	Saul Replies	
Sunday	October 22 nd	1 Samuel 1:9-20; 16:1-13 / Psalm	150 Birth of Samuel / David Becomes King	
Monday	October 23 rd	1 Kings 2:1-4	David Instructs Solomon	
Tuesday	October 24th	1 Kings 3:3-14	The Source of Solomon's Wisdom	
Wednesday	October 25 th	1 Kings 3:16-28	Solomon Solves a Dispute	
Thursday	October 26 th	1 Kings 4:29-34	Solomon's Fame	
Friday	October 27 th	1 Kings 9:1-9	The Lord Speaks to Solomon Again	
Saturday	October 28th	1 Kings 11:1-13	Solomon's Fall from Faithfulness	
Sunday	October 29 th	1 Kings 6:37-7:1, 7:51-8:13	Temple is Built: God Presence	
Monday	October 30 th	1 Kings 16:29-33	Ahab's Evil Actions	

November and December readings will appear in next month's newsletter.

Beware of sneaky elevators!

They are always up to something!

Our parents got us started in the elevator business.

They felt it was a good way to raise us kids!

Why did the cowboy put the steer in the elevator? To raise the steaks!

Elevator jokes really push my buttons and grind my gears!

And . . . they really drive me up a wall!

The new elevator shaft got its roof added and sealed.

The "ground level" lobby has finally taken shape. It will feature





The masonry work has been exciting to watch! The quarry that originally provided our 1940 and 1960 sandstone for our facilities is now closed. The sandstone on our elevator is a mixture of original and new stone. If you look closely, our stone design is not even patterned, like bricks or cinderblocks, but utilize many different sizes and shapes of stone. The masons were thrilled to work on this project as it was "more art than science." But it surely has not been easy for them to try to get the new stone to match the original, but we think they are doing an amazing job, and eventually, the new stone will weather in the elements and will blend in nicely to the rest of the existing façade!

HALLOWEEN CANDY NEEDED!

Once again, we would like to put a car ("trunk") representing our church in the Port Edwards village Trunk-or-Treat event.



Many hands are needed to make this a success!

We need all of the HELP when we set up for the Bazaar on October 29 after church service. If you are unable to help on the day of the Bazaar, this will give you an opportunity to help in another way. Many hands make light work and we appreciate all those hands.

The week preceding the Bazaar will be a busy one, but with everyone's help it will be a very successful day. Don't forget to invite your friends for lunch and shopping. All proceeds go to Missions and Scholarships.

Signup sheets are available in church for the following:

- 1. Pies for the luncheon
- 2. Breads for the luncheon
- Baked goods & candy
- 4. Crafts



BAZAAR HELPER ASSIGNMENTS AND SCHEDULE

The following people have graciously agreed to help with the November 4th Holiday Bazaar and we thank them oh so much! If your name isn't here, and you would like it to be, please contact:





BAKERY / CANDY

Co-Chairs,- Joan Harnisch & Jerene Sillars

- → Marge Bauer
- → Pat Markeson

CASHIERS

10:00-12:00

→ Pat McGrath

12:00-1:00

◆ Sandy Robinson

1:00-2:00

→ Mary Heuer

FILL-IN-PERSON

→ Ellen Mazurek

GREETERS

10:00-11:00

→ Jeanne Bruener

Andi Alia dan Andi Alia dan Andi

→ Alison Bruener

11:00-12:00

- ◆ Lori Hintz
- → Nancy Hansen

12:00-1:00

- ◆ Sue Mitchell
- → Maribeth Lacasse-Salo

1:00-2:00

♦ Maribeth Lacasse-Salo

DINING ROOM

Chair, Kathy McGrath

All Day

- ◆ Sue Brzezinski
- ★ Kathy McGrath
- → Tiara Grunden

9:45-11:00

→ Lori Hintz

9:45-Noon

→ Lindsey Hintz

11:00-1:00

- ◆ Rachel Lamb
- ◆ Crystal & Ava Sadler
- → Glenna Sunderland

dadidia aka dadidia aka dadidia aka

1:00-2:00 & Cleanup

★ Kathy Mills

GENERAL CLEANUP

→ EVERYONE

KITCHEN

Barbeque

Co-Chairs, Midge Herschleb & Sue Thomasgard

<u>, dadi dila dan dadi dila dan dadi dila dan dadi dila</u>

Poultry Salad

Co-Chairs , Carol Ann Harvestine & Diane Sweat

Friday Helpers - 9:00

- → Midge Herschleb
- → Nina Pelo
- → Sara Tyne
- → Becky Taylor
- ◆ Carol Ann Harvestine
- ◆ Lu Ann Slattery
- → Diane Sweat
- → Gloria Wunrow

Saturday Helpers - 9:00

- ◆ Sharon Studinski
- → Julie Berg
- → Diane Sweat
- → Carol Ann Harvestine

Kitchen Cleanup

- ◆ Larry Miller
- ◆ Leo Thomasgard
- → Chuck Lamb
- John Sweat

HAND-CRAFTED

- → Judy Miller
- → Becky Taylor
- → Leona Sweat
- ◆ Sara Tyne (pricing help)

MUSIC

Chair, Ellen Mazurek

- → Pastor Caleb
- → Sue Mitchell
- → Judy Miller
- → Erin Taylor

PIES

- → Sara Tyne
- → Nikki Heitman

PUBLICITY*

- → Mary Heuer
- → Amy Palik
- → Becky Taylor
- * With special thanks to all who distributed posters

TABLE DRESSING

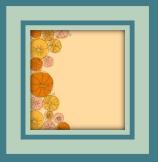
→ Julie Berg

TREASURER

Mary Heuer

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Ed Heuer, Assist. Counter





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SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10:00 AM Worship World Communion Cookout after the service	Bible Study Begins "Breaking the Code" 4 of 4: 6:00 PM		Elevator Mtg. – 10:00 AM			
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
10:00 AM Worship Baptism of Glenna		Nurture				
Sunderland Reception into Membership:	Reception after the worship service	Ministries Meeting – 10:00 AM				
Helmuth & Sandy						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
10:00 AM Worship All Music Sunday 11:15 AM Church Council				Pastor out of town—getting married		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
10:00 AM Worship United Women in Faith Service	OFFICE CLOSED		Village Trunk-or-Treat			
Pastor out of tow	n—mini-honeym	oon	(Halloween candy needed!)			
29	30	31	November 1	November 2	November 3	November 4
10:00 AM Service All Saints Sunday						Holiday Bazaar

Noteworthy



October 25

Leo & Sue Thomasgard
48 Years

October 29

Damon & Donna Klinger 44 Years

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS, FOR HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS IN SEPTEMBER!





A program of Aspirus Riverview Hospital made possible by United Way of South Wood & Adams Counties

Home Delivered Meals Drivers

Julie Berg
Pat & Kathy McGrath
Sue Mitchell
Becky Taylor
Leo & Sue Thomasgard

Every four weeks, PEUMC volunteers deliver a hot and nutritious noon meal to homes of Wisconsin Rapids area residents who are unable to prepare their own meals. Anyone interested in helping with this program may contact Becky Taylor (715-887-2163) for more information. **THANK YOU!**



October 5

Nancy Klahn Mark Lokken

October 6

Norman Silvester

October 14

Joan Harnisch

October 16

Kathy McGrath

October 23

Dennis Slattery

October 24

Bob Bru<mark>ener</mark> Amy Palik

October 28

Richard Clark

October 30

Ella Huser

October 31

Marissa Harnisch

